

## Ten Minute Classics

Famous Tales and Legends Told in Brief Form

### A Love Story of the Battle-Scarred Land of Champagne

By J. W. MULLER

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Playwrights, authors and poets find a deep fount of inspiration and story in the troubadour literature of the middle ages. Most famous of these tales are the French tales of the thirteenth century, and from one of them is taken the story presented today. It deals with that part of the Champagne from Soissons to Reims, where today a long line is held desperately by French and Germans, who are face to face, and in some parts almost within touch of each other.

Messire William was a loyal knight of Champagne who was honored by all men who prized truth and nobility. His fortune, however, did not equal his merit.

He owned only one thing that was valuable. It was his horse. Gray it was, flower-bright of coat. Never had men seen another such steed, so proud, so impetuous and yet so dainty of foot. Men near and far coveted it and offered him wealth for it, but he would not listen. Between these two, knight and horse, there was a great love as between brothers.

Poor as he was, Messire William set his heart on the daughter of the richest lord in all the Champagne. She was as good as she was beautiful.

She gave her heart to the tall, splendid knight, but never could they meet. Her father kept her close, never permitting her to pass from the battlements and walled gardens. Still the knight rode to her castle every day, and every day they saw each other and talked love, though they could do it only through a gap in the masonry of a great wall.

Although he well knew the futility of it, Messire William ventured at last to ask her father for her hand. "Think you I am so besotted as to give my child to a knight who lives by play?" roared the old man. "She shall marry no beggar! I have not yet found the man, from Soissons to Reims, and from Reims to Chalons, or from the Lorraine to Germany, who is rich enough to match me! This fruit is too high for your seeking!"

"Cursed be your father's wealth!" said the knight when he saw his sweet-heart again.

"I would go with you gladly, and be a beggar!" said she. "But my father is old, and prayers will not move him, for age and youth cannot understand each other. Yet I would counsel you. Have you not an uncle, fully as rich as my father? And do these two not greatly honor each other? Why do you not ride to him and ask for his intercession?"

The knight took courage and rode to his aged relative, who not only agreed to help him, but started at once, telling the knight to return to his own castle and wait for word from him.

It was an evil word that reached him after a week of anxious waiting. A friend brought him the news that his uncle had wooed indeed, but not for his nephew. He had wooed and won for himself, and the girl, locked safely within the castle, could do nothing but wring her hands.

Scarcely had the news reached the poor knight before one of the nobleman's valets arrived to ask him for his steed. "My lord prays you," was the message, "to lead your beautiful horse to carry his daughter in honor and state to the church on her wedding morn."

### SUNSET ON LAKE SUPERIOR

Writer Enthuses Over Beautiful Picture Painted by Old Sol at the Close of the Day.

A sunset on Lake Superior! Match it, in its resplendent beauty on a late November day, if you can. The clouds that had darkened the sun as the Transcontinental Limited sped along the precipitous shores, melted away, leaving narrow streaks, like ribbons of gray floating above the water's rim. Dappled gray clouds in masses clung to the zenith. The slowly setting sun began to paint its own heroic picture. The ribbons of clouds changed from gray to pearl, from pearl to amethyst and then to richest gold. The convoluted masses overhead vividly reflected these changes. The quiet waters of the lake shone like a mirror of polished bronze. The sun was sinking fast. While the passengers were voicing their delight, the last ray of the sun disappeared, and lake and rocky shore sank into the shadows of night. As the train climbed above the lake its waters were left out of the range of

"May heaven bless my wicked uncle never for this foul, treasonable deed!" lamented the knight. "He has killed me! Cain wrought no redder wrong! Yet I will send my horse gladly to her who gave me her dear love. It is the last service I can do her. Never shall I hear her sweet voice again or see her come to meet me, dainty-fair! Saddle the horse with my best gear and lead it to the most tender of maidens!"

That night the wedding company in the rich man's castle feasted and made so merry that when the warders sounded their trumpets at dawn to awaken all for the wedding journey to the church, city guests and guards were alike sleepy and before they had ridden far they were nodding in their saddles.

Even those who were detailed to guard the bride rode with closed eyes. Soon there was none to guide the bride's horse, for she rode weeping with thoughts far away, and the reins lay idle on the animal's neck.

When the procession entered a devious forest trail, the horse, being left to itself, turned off on his own account and entered a hidden woodland path that led to Messire William's home.

The weeping bride became aware at last that she was alone; but as the horse ambled on with great gentleness, and she did not know which way to go, she permitted it to take her whither it would. Soon it stopped before a castle.

A warder ran to the knight, who was wan and broken from long hours of unavailing grief. "Oh, sir!" cried the man. "There is before the draw-bridge a most wondrous lovely woman, clad richly in scarlet and gold. Never have we seen any so slim, so dainty, so sweet! And, lord, she rides on your horse!"

The knight bounded down the stairs and through the portal. He lifted down the bride, kissing her a hundred times and more. Then he sent for a chaplain and led her to the chapel of his house where they were married forthwith.

In the meantime, there was wild trouble among the wedding party. The old lord and the old bridegroom tore their beards and laid lustily with whip and boot on the guards, who made mad clamor, blaming each other. To them at last spurred a rider sent by Messire William with this message:

"Sir, my master sends you assurance of his great friendship. He also charges me to say to his uncle, who betrayed him so shamefully, that he pardons him the more easily for the reason that your daughter has given herself to him as a gift this day."

The old lord listened with wonder and anger. But he took thought to himself, and concluded that since she was married, nothing he could do would undo it. Therefore, presently all the company rode peacefully to the knight's castle, where the old noble embraced his undesired son-in-law with all courtesy, while the graybeard of a bridegroom who was not a bridegroom tried in vain to discover a few crumbs of comfort that might console him.

Falling in this, he went home and died, which was a favor to Messire William, since all his wealth went to the knight. And there is no troubadour in Champagne who ever has told or sung this story who was not forced to add, in accordance with the truth, that there never was a horse in all the world that was so honored and beloved as the horse that stole the bride and brought her to her bridegroom.

vision, but, strangely enough, the lake seemed to appear again in the distance, with low-hilled islands outlined in a faint glow of red. We discovered that what seemed to be islands were floating clouds, and what seemed to be the water in which they rested was an illusion. It was caused by the clear atmosphere lit by the gray light of fast-falling eventide. It was beautiful and impressive, but an illusion that quickly disclosed itself and melted away as the train sped on.—John A. Slescher in Leslie's.

**That Settled Him.**  
The Husband—You're not economical.

The Wife—Well, if you don't call a woman economical who saves her wedding dress for a possible second marriage, I'd like to know what you think economy is.

**Modern Arithmetic.**  
Teacher—If a man gets \$4 for working eight hours a day, what would he get if he worked ten hours a day?  
Johnny—Ten hours a day? He'd get a call-down from de union.—Century.

## EARLY CORN PLANTING IS RECOMMENDED

(From the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Corn will not grow during cold weather as wheat and oats. Corn planting time is, therefore, a little later than the best time for sowing spring wheat or spring oats. However, according to Farmers' Bulletin 773, when seed of perfect vitality is used, it is remarkable how early in the spring corn can be planted and result in good stands and good yields. Seed of perfect vitality will often remain in cold or dry soils for several weeks and afterwards germinate and yield well. Irregular stands are sometimes attributed to poor seed, when dry, poorly prepared spots are the cause. Fields are sometimes seen in which the seed germinated promptly in moist spots but did not germinate in dry spots until rains came.

### Wait for Warm Soil.

Where the seasons are long and moisture plentiful, it is customary to wait until the soil is warm before planting. In semiarid regions, however, corn should be planted early. With the soil in proper condition it is generally advisable in semiarid regions, south as well as north, to plant corn before danger from frost is entirely past. Corn planted very early usually makes a slow, tough growth

and a month after planting may be smaller and look less promising than that planted later. The early-planted corn ripens first, however, and usually produces the larger or the better crop. Because of its slow, tough growth corn planted very early is not so susceptible to frost and drought as corn planted later and growing more rapidly.

### Injury From Frost.

In a series of years the gain in mature corn secured from early planting will more than make up for any injury from spring frosts. Excellent corn crops have been produced from plantings frozen off or frozen back when the plants were from a few inches to a foot or more tall. Corn is not often entirely killed by spring frosts, and if some should be injured the loss is much less serious than that from summer drought or from fall frost.

Early-planted corn derives more benefit from the spring moisture supply, becomes well rotted before summer droughts begin, and may even mature before these droughts become severe.

Where the growing season is very long and warm, plantings made at about 30-day intervals increase the chances of hitting the season right and raising some good corn.

## SAFE FARMING URGED

Food, Feed and Fertility Go to Make Up Foundation.

Circular Issued by Department of Agriculture Points Out True Value of Cotton—Money Crop Is Last on the List.

(From the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Food, feed and fertility are the foundations of safe farming, according to the United States department of agriculture. A circular sent to farmers, bankers and business men in cotton territory by the chief of the office of extension work in the South says: "Let us feed the people, feed the live stock, and feed the soil. When we have done these three things, then raise such acreage in money crops as we have the labor to tend."

The circular points out that the true value of cotton to the farmer is to a great extent the amount of food and feed that it will purchase. The price of cotton has risen, it is true, but so has the retail price of all other farm produce. "By growing all cotton," says the author, "and exchanging it for a living, you are simply swapping a high-priced product produced by your labor for a high-priced product produced by the labor of the other fellow. When you follow safe farming, however, you produce your own food and feed at cost and sell your cotton for the other fellow's dollars."

Safe farming is defined in the circular as including these items:

(1) A home garden for every family on the farm, from one-tenth to one-fourth acre, well located, well tilled, and tended as carefully as any other crop on the farm, planted in rotation to time the vegetable crops so as to have a continual supply for the family table as many days in the year as possible. To this should be added one-fourth of an acre of potatoes, either Irish or sweet, or both, to be used as food for the family.

(2) Enough corn on each farm to last the family and the live stock for one year, with a little excess for safety.

(3) Sufficient oats and other small grain to supplement the corn as food for one year with certainty. These small grains conserve the soil in winter and provide summer grazing for live stock.

(4) Hay and forage crops to supply

the live stock on the farm for one year, with a little excess for safety. The legumes, which add fertility to the soil and produce the best hay, should not be forgotten.

(5) The necessary meat, eggs and milk for the family. The meat should be procured by increased attention to poultry and hogs because of the rapidity with which these can be produced. Every family should have at least two cows, so that one can be in milk all the time. A sufficient number of brood sows should be kept to produce the pork for the family, with some excess for sale. The average number of poultry per farm should be gradually increased to at least fifty. There should be eggs and poultry for the home table, with a sufficient excess for sale. The live stock on the farm should be gradually increased so as to consume the otherwise wasted products and make productive the unproductive and untillable lands.

(6) Cotton for the main money crop after the living has been amply provided for.

(7) The sale of the surplus products of the garden, the orchard, the poultry, the live stock, and the feed crops to cover the necessary running expenses of the farm, leaving the cotton as the real cash crop.

The present prices of cotton, says the circular, should not be permitted to tempt any farmer to depart from this program. It is the only safe plan to follow, no matter what the price of cotton may be.

## REMOVING STUMPS IN FIELD

They Take Up Valuable Room and Make Work in Field Hard—Get Them Out of the Way.

If you have stumps in your field that you have been plowing around for years, determine to get them out of the way before spring.

They make it harder for man and animal working in the field, and take up valuable room.

### Good Feed for Hens.

Milk is a good feed for hens. Feed them all the milk that they will consume. The hens will not only lay well, but will keep in a strong, vigorous state of health.

### Tick Eradication.

"Swat the tick," has become the war cry in Texas, where, at the request of the ranchmen, a government tick eradication bureau is being established.

## TO PRODUCE SANITARY MILK

Cows Must Be Clean, Healthy and Well Cared For—Avoid Feeds With Objectionable Flavors.

In order that milk may be sanitary and healthy the cows must be healthy, clean and well cared for and must not be given feeds that will produce objectionable flavors in the milk; barns must be well lighted, ventilated and kept clean and be roomy enough to prevent undue crowding of the cows; barnyards must be kept reasonably clean, and should be well drained so as to insure, as far as possible, cleanliness of cow; manure must not accumulate near or be piled against the barn; the floor of the milk room should be of concrete, the room being well lighted, ventilated and screened; utensils such as cans, bottles and milk pails must be washed and scalded after each use, and all fixtures must be free from open seams and rust; water supply for cows and for cooling and cleaning purposes must be clean and free from contamination; steam or hot water should be used for

cleansing and sterilizing utensils.—Clemson College Bulletin.

## NEGLECT OF POULTRY FLOCK

All Products, Particularly Eggs, Are High This Year—Good Care Is Quite Essential.

It costs considerable to feed a flock of fowls this season because of the high price of grain, but it does not pay to neglect the poultry on that account. All poultry products, particularly eggs, are high this year, and good care and feeding will make the flock very profitable.

### Purebred Poultry.

Purebred poultry is more profitable for supplying eggs or meat than mongrels. Which do you keep?

### Force Swine to Exercise.

Force both breeding stock and young pigs to take ample exercise.

### Get Tools in Shape.

Put all tools and machinery in repair for next season's use.

## WOMAN NOW IN PERFECT HEALTH

What Came From Reading a Pinkham Advertisement.

Paterson, N. J.—"I thank you for the Lydia E. Pinkham remedies as they

have made me well and healthy. Some time ago I felt so run down, had pains in my back and side, was very irregular, tired, nervous, had such bad dreams, did not feel like eating and had short breath. I read your advertisement in the newspapers and

decided to try a bottle of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. It worked from the first bottle, so I took a second and a third, also a bottle of Lydia E. Pinkham's Blood Purifier, and now I am just as well as any other woman. I advise every woman, single or married, who is troubled with any of the aforesaid ailments, to try your wonderful Vegetable Compound and Blood Purifier and I am sure they will help her to get rid of her troubles as they did me."—Mrs. ELSIE J. VAN DER SANDE, 36 No. York St., Paterson, N. J.

Write the Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., (confidential) Lynn, Mass, if you need special advice.

**Cockroaches ARE FILTHY**  
Kill Them By Using

**STEARNS' ELECTRIC PASTE**

U. S. Government Buys It

SOLD EVERYWHERE—25c and \$1.00

Portable Medicine Chest.

The cartridge belt medicine chest is for use in peace as well as in war, but it is especially intended for hunters, prospectors and such persons who have need for remedies, but who cannot be burdened with chests and similar bulky paraphernalia. It has been devised by Dr. Otto Sommer of Seattle, Wash. The belt is made of canvas or leather, as desired, and it has numerous compartments for vials containing medicine, just as a cartridge belt has for the cartridges. When a person wearing the belt wishes to take a shot at some internal disorder he plucks a medicinal pellet from the belt and swallows it. If relief does not come he plucks another of a different kind until his medicinal ammunition is depleted. At this point he dons another belt fully loaded and repeats the operation. The inventor says the belt is useful on long walks, trips and on horseback expeditions.

An Essential Step.

The republic of Panama has had its first bank failure, and feels that it is cutting its teeth as an infant in the family of nations. The process is never wholly pleasurable, but it has to come.—Brooklyn Eagle.

It is the intention of the government of Uruguay to increase the manufacture of chemical products in the Institute of Industrial Chemistry.



**Have You Ever Suspected**

that the cause of various annoying ills might lie in the daily cup of tea or coffee?

A sure and easy way out of coffee and tea troubles is to shift to

**Instant Postum**

There's no caffeine nor anything harmful in this delightful, pure food-drink—just the nourishing goodness of wheat.

Postum has put thousands of former tea and coffee drinkers on the Road to wellville.

"There's a Reason"